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ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 070829Z APR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0668  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1588  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7768

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 001888

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FOR NEA/IR, DRL, AND IRF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/2008

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SOCI](#) [IR](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: JAPAN SEEKING MORE EVIDENCE WHILE CONSIDERING  
BAHA'I TREATMENT IN IRAN

REF: STATE 54484

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Joe Donovan. Reasons 1.4 b/d

¶1. (U) This message contains an action request. Please see  
paragraph 3.

¶2. (C) Embassy Tokyo Political Officer delivered reftel  
points regarding Tehran's treatment of religious minorities  
to MOFA Second Middle East Division on April 5. On April 7,  
Second Middle East's Koichi Nakao replied that Japan has long  
been concerned with human rights in Iran, and often discusses  
human rights with Iranian officials. However, Nakao  
continued, before Japan could approach Iran or issue a  
statement as requested by the United States, particularly one  
addressing the Baha'i situation, Japan would need more  
concrete evidence of discrimination than had been provided in  
reftel. While Tokyo believes discrimination against the  
Baha'i probably exists, it has received no concrete evidence  
from its embassy in Tehran and, in Tokyo's experience,  
appeals to Iranian officials without concrete evidence to  
back them up are usually ineffective. Nakao suggested that  
"rumors" and "we anticipate the possibility" -- as stated in  
reftel -- would not be enough on its own for Japan to make a  
special intervention at this time. He added that MOFA will  
task Japan's Embassy in Tehran to further investigate Baha'i  
community's claims.

¶3. (C) ACTION REQUEST. Embassy Tokyo requests Department  
provide more specific evidence of discrimination against the  
Baha'i and/or other religious minorities in Iran.

SCHIEFFER